

4. PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT

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4. PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

PURPOSE

The Parks, Recreation and Conservation Element (PRE) catalogs the existing public and private recreation, open space and conservation areas and facilities within the Town, analyzes the inventory of recreation and open space to project an appropriate level of service standard, promotes the conservation, conscientious use, and protection of natural resources within the Town, formulates goals, objectives, and policies to protect and preserve existing recreational and conservation areas, and provides guidelines for acquiring additional recreation, open space and conservation areas within the Town to maintain a minimum level of service for the community.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Current Facilities Analysis

Currently there are fifty (50) public parks and recreational sites serving the Town, as described in Table 1. There are both Activity and Resource parks, with “neighborhood, community, and regional” service levels. “Activity Parks” are parks dedicated to active recreational pursuits such as baseball, soccer, basketball, etc. “Resource Parks” are parks dedicated to passive uses such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, and bird watching. As noted in the Table, the total acreage of parks in the Town is 1,834 acres. Figures 1, 2 and 3 (Appendix D) identify all parks and recreational sites, including equestrian and recreational trails, located within the Town. Figure 1 indicates the service level of the neighborhood parks with circles depicting the service area. The service level of Community and Regional Parks are not depicted on the map, as those service areas extend beyond the Town limits and would overlap substantially, making the map illegible.

Thirty-seven (38) of these parks are owned and maintained by the Town, five (5) parks are leased by the Town, and seven (7) parks are owned and maintained by the State or the County. Only six (6) of the parks are “Regional” parks. The rest are “Community” and “Neighborhood” parks. Figure 1 located herein describes the service area of each of the community and neighborhood parks.

The Town is known for its extensive trails systems. Figure 3 indicates the existing recreational trails throughout the Town, as of 2007. Figure 4 indicates the existing equestrian trails within the Town. While the equestrian trails are located in the western portions of Davie, as that portion of the Town is more rural in nature, with extensive open space tracts, the recreational trails extend throughout the entire Town, and have been developed consistent with the Broward County Greenways Master Plan.

Table 1: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Sites

Park/Recreation Site	Acreage	Ownership	Type	Service Level
Bergeron Park	4.79	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Bergeron Rodeo Arena & Grounds	18.61	Davie	Activity	Community
Berman Park	2.88	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Betty Booth Roberts Park	4.97	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
S.W. 8 th Street Park	2.41	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Davie Pine Island Park	108.76	Davie	Activity	Community
Davie Town Hall	2.95	Davie	Activity	Community
Driftwood Estate Park	5.00	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Joy Yoder Equestrian Center	4.44	Davie	Activity	Community
Lange Park	3.17	Davie	Resource	Neighborhood
Oakhill Equestrian Park	9.63	Davie	Activity	Community
Old Davie School	4.52	Davie	Activity	Community
Old Davie School Addition	1.93	Davie	Activity	Community
Palomino Park	2.46	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Orange Park	0.42	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Potter Park and P.A.L.	4.19	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Reflections Park	4.26	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Shenandoah Park	17.00	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Wes Griffin Park	3.88	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
SW 36th Court Park	0.13	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
East Davie Nature Park	2.78	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Veterans Park	1.83	Davie	Resource	Community
Waterford Park	5.03	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
The Park at Waverly	10.10	Davie	Activity	Neighborhood
Governor Leroy Collins Park	53.71	Davie	Resource	Community
Berman Preserve	36.10	Davie	Resource	Community
Falcon's Lea Park	3.80	Davie	Resource	Community
Faulk	4.95	Davie	Resource	Community
Ivanhoe FPL Easement	30.96	Davie	Resource	Community
Math Iglar	1.55	Davie	Resource	Community
Robbins Lodge/Park	157.62	Davie	Resource	Community
S.W. 7 th Place Open Space	.41	Davie	Resource	Neighborhood
Sunny Lakes Bird Sanctuary	16.63	Davie	Resource	Neighborhood
Sunny Lakes Bird Sanctuary Expansion	2.40	Davie	Resource	Neighborhood
Van Kirk Groves	115.00	Davie	Resource	Community
Westridge	39.89	Davie	Resource	Community
Wolf Lake	48.45	Davie	Resource	Community
Flamingo Rd. and SW 14 th Street	3.59	Davie	Resource	Community
Flamingo Rd. and SW 26 th Street	4.12	Davie	Resource	Community
Flamingo Elementary Ballfields	4.50	Davie Lease	Activity	Community
Davie Elementary School/B. Gessner	4.50	Davie Lease	Activity	Community
Western High School	20.00	Davie Lease	Activity	Community
Nova High School	5.80	Davie Lease	Activity	Community
Silver Lakes Rotary Nature Park	39.49	Davie Lease	Resource	Community
Tree Tops Park	243.31	Florida/BCC/SFWMD*	Resource	Regional

Park/Recreation Site	Acreage	Ownership	Type	Service Level
Linear Park	36.00	Florida/BCC/SFWMD*	Resource	Community
Long Key Natural Area	153.61	Florida/BCC/SFWMD*	Resource	Regional
Vista View Park & Addition	269.27	Florida/BCC/SFWMD*	Resource	Regional
Pine Island Ridge	131.58	Florida/BCC/SFWMD*	Resource	Regional
Pond Apple Slough	130.26	Florida/BCC/SFWMD*	Resource	Regional
TOTAL ACREAGE	1,783.64			

* Florida means, the State of Florida; BCC means the Broward County Commission; SFWMD means the South Florida Water Management District.

Level of Service Standard

The parks and recreation level of service (LOS) standard established in the Town of Davie's Comprehensive Plan is 10 acres per 1,000 population. Based on the 2008 population estimate of 93,482 contained in the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) Data, Inventory and Analysis (DIA), the Town would need to provide 935 acres of parks to meet its LOS standard. As the Town already contains 1,783.6 acres of parks, the LOS standard has been met and exceeded.

Analysis of Future Needs

The Town will continue to meet and exceed its LOS standard of 10 acres per 1,000 population throughout the planning period (2018), even without any additional parks and open space. However, in 2005, the Town residents approved a \$25 million bond for open space.

A typical LOS standard for parks and recreational lands is between 3 and 5 acres per 1,000 population. Thus, the Town's current LOS of 10 acres per 1,000 population is twice that of the average municipality. In addition, each new open space and park facilities carries with it an ongoing and continual maintenance cost. For these reasons and more, it is recommended the Town maintain its current LOS for parks and open space, and focus the remainder of the Open Space Bond monies on the interconnection of Town and regional facilities, and to create a network of trails and open space for the Town and its residents.

Future Park Planning/Capital Improvements

Given the current adopted LOS for parks and open space, the current park acreage is adequate through the planning period of 2018.

Additionally, several policies have been included in the Goals, Objectives and Policies (GOPs). Included in the GOPs is a policy requiring the preparation of a parks master plan. This master plan should include a strategy for the acquisition, development and maintenance of parkland. In addition, a policy has been added to the GOPs requiring the land development regulations be amended to include evaluation criteria for the

purchasing and development of parks and open space. Consideration of the costs in money and resources of the ongoing maintenance of the property is to be included in the evaluation criteria.

As recommended in the 2005 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), policies are proposed for the Park, Recreation and Conservation Element to encourage the pursuit of additional parcels, to purchase strategic parcels for the completion of the Town's trail network, to improve the maintenance of the trails and open space, to plan for the long term stability of the Town's parks, trails, and open space, to continue to partner with other organizations when identified parcels become available, to continue to coordinate with the County to ensure the trail networks interconnect, and to work with adjacent municipalities on regional parks and trails issues. As part of the EAR-Based amendments, a comprehensive map of current resources has been included.

These strategies, in concert with the projects included in the proposed Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements (SCI), will allow the Town to meet its park needs and goals through the next planning timeframe.

CONSERVATION

Below is an analysis of the wetlands located within the Town of Davie. The other categories of the conservation element, such as wildlife, air quality and surface waters have not been modified from the 2000 update of the Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, no additional analysis of these items was conducted as part of EAR-based amendments.

Wetlands

Wetlands are generally classified as areas where the water table is near or above the surface, except during extended dry periods. Wetlands are typically adjacent to natural water bodies and man-made lakes, and in low-lying depressions, and have poorly drained, level, organic, or marl soils. Wetlands provide needed habitat for aquatic and land species, including migrating birds. Wetlands also provide storage areas for stormwater, and a "natural filtration system" to cleanse the water.

Figure 1 shows the location of different types of wetlands within the Town. Projects within jurisdictional wetland areas are required to obtain all required Federal, State and County permits, and provide mitigation as necessary. As can be seen on the map, there are relatively few designated wetlands within the Town. The few that do exist are predominantly scattered throughout the southwest portion of the Town. Therefore, wetlands are not likely to pose any significant constraints to development and redevelopment within the Town of Davie.

Trees

In 2006, the Florida Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry awarded an Urban and Community Forestry Hurricane Grant to the Town of Davie. This grant was awarded in order for the Town to assess and restore tree canopy lost as a result of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. The Town recently completed the projects associated with this grant, including the inventorying of all Town-maintained trees and planting of 48 trees.

Specifically, the Town conducted an assessment of those trees maintained on Town-owned property and right-of-way. Approximately 8,800 trees were located using GPS (Global Positioning System), and features such as the tree type and current condition were collected. A policy has been added to the Comprehensive Plan amendments requiring Town staff to maintain this inventory as trees are planted or removed.

Current and Projected Potable Water Needs

Rule 9-J5.013(1)(c) requires that a local government determine its current and projected water needs for the 10-year planning horizon, and identify new water supply sources to serve future demand. Thus, the analysis for the Infrastructure Element of this Comprehensive Plan update provides an inventory of the current and projected water needs and potential sources to the year 2018. The projections are based on present water consumption demands in the Town, and population projections shown in the FLUE DIA.

Existing Potable Water Sources

The Town of Davie provides potable water production and distribution to only a portion of its residents. In order to provide complete coverage throughout the Town, potable water service is also provided by Ferncrest Utilities and the City of Sunrise. The Biscayne Aquifer is the current source of potable water for all of Broward County, including the Town of Davie. However, the Town has developed an Alternative Water Supply Plan (AWSP) which includes the expansion of the existing wastewater treatment plan, the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility and a reverse osmosis water treatment plant. These facilities will increase the Town's treatment capacity by 6 MGD. More detail on the new facilities and the AWSP is provided in the Infrastructure Element Data, Inventory and Analysis (DIA) Report.

Existing and Projected Potable Water Capacity and Demand

A detailed discussion of potable water demand over the planning horizon is given in the Infrastructure Element Data, Inventory and Analysis (DIA) Report. Table 2 below shows the results of the analysis of projected potable water demand through 2018:

Table 2: Projected Potable Water Demand for the Town of Davie

Year	Service Area Populations		Projected Billed Usage (MGD)		Total Usage (MGD)	Production Needed (MGD)
	Davie SA	Other Providers SA	Davie	Other Providers		

2008	31,366	61,703	4.77	7.68	12.44	13.32
2009	31,965	62,438	4.86	7.77	12.63	13.51
2010	32,575	63,182	4.95	7.86	12.82	13.71
2011	33,198	63,935	5.05	7.96	13.01	13.92
2012	33,832	64,696	5.14	8.06	13.20	14.12
2013	34,478	65,613	5.24	8.17	13.41	14.35
2014	35,136	66,350	5.34	8.27	13.61	14.56
2015	36,631	67,117	5.57	8.37	13.93	14.91
2016	37,096	67,717	5.64	8.44	14.08	15.07
2017	37,567	68,325	5.71	8.52	14.23	15.23
2018	38,044	68,967	5.78	8.60	14.38	15.39

Source: Utilities Element Data, Inventory and Analysis Report

* The Water Treatment Plant Production necessary to meet customer demand assumes that 7% of water produced is lost (unaccounted for) through the distribution system.

The combined capacity of all utility providers within the Town of Davie will exceed the projected demand. Specifically, the Town of Davie Utilities will increase its total capacity to approximately 10 MGD over the next four years, with the opening of the new reverse osmosis plant. Ferncrest Utilities is proposing to keep production at about .74 MGD throughout the planning period. Since the Sunrise Utilities services multiple jurisdictions, determining the amount of their total capacity which is available to the Town of Davie residents is more difficult. However, based upon the estimated populations for the Town of Davie residents served by Sunrise, and a comparison of that population to the total service area population of the Sunrise Utilities, an approximate figure of available capacity can be determined. Based upon the calculations in the Infrastructure Element Data, Inventory and Analysis, there is approximately 8 MGD of Sunrise's total capacity which will be available to serve the Town of Davie residents throughout the planning period. Based upon that estimate, the total capacity available to serve the Town's potable water demand is approximately 18 MGD. Given the demand figures in Table 2 above, this is more than sufficient to provide potable water service to the Town residents throughout the planning period.

It should be pointed out, though, that the other service providers are responsible for maintaining an acceptable level of service for potable water throughout the planning period. Furthermore, the Town of Davie does not have any jurisdiction over these two potable water providers.